

EMPIRE LAND CORPORATION.

Something About What Mr. John A. Esser and Associates Are Doing to Develop the Coal and Timber Wealth of Tazewell County.

A great industrial enterprise, known as the Empire Land Corporation, is being created just north of Richlands, in this county.

In September, 1907, John A. Esser, of Dorchester, Wisc. county, Va., and associates, purchased and took over the holdings of the Tazewell Land Corporation, Seaboard Coal Company and the West Fork Lumber Company. These three corporations held eleven thousand acres of land, every acre of which is underlain with valuable coal seams, and the boundary was estimated to have upon it twenty-five million feet of merchantable timber. A new and extensive mining plant and one hundred coke ovens that had never been fired at Seaboard were acquired by Mr. Esser and his associates along with the land. About the time the purchase was made the industrial and financial depression came on and no effort was made to develop or work the property until six months ago. Then, Mr. Esser came from Dorchester and located at Seaboard, now Alfredton, and since has been making things move. The coke ovens were gotten ready and put in blast. The coal vein, known as No. 1, that had been previously mined, was abandoned because its coking qualities were not such as were desired; and two openings have been made on vein 1 1/2 and five on No. 2. These are furnishing a quality of coal that is unsurpassed for its coking qualities. Four of the new openings have been made within the past ninety days. It is estimated that the seven openings when sufficiently developed will yield 1,000 tons of coal a day, while the capacity of the ovens now in use have a capacity of 5,000 tons of coke a month. One hundred new ovens are now in course of construction. After these are completed, which will be within from four to six months, and if sufficient coal is then available, fifty more ovens will be added, which will give the plant a capacity of twelve thousand tons per month. This will mean the use of twenty thousand tons of coal a month, and will require the employment of between four and five hundred men. There are six tipples at the mines and a large tipple at the coke ovens. The seams that are being mined are approximately one hundred and seventy-five feet above the tipple at the oven plant. The power for hauling, crushing and elevating the coal and charging the ovens is generated by two 150-horsepower electrical generators. Two stationary engines with boilers of 600-horsepower are used for running the electrical generators and other purposes. The coal is hauled from the mines to the tipple at the ovens by electric motors, where it is dumped into a powerful crusher and crushed before placing in the ovens.

The timber interests of the property are also being developed. One large hand saw mill has been in operation for some time at a point one mile north of Richlands, and there are now two million feet of lumber sawed and stacked upon the yards. Another mill will be put in operation in a short time. About three hundred men are now employed by the company in mining and other operations, and the monthly pay-roll amounts up into the thousands. The enterprise is one of the most valuable that has ever been started in Tazewell county, and it will add greatly to the wealth of the west end.

Mr. Esser is one of the most successful manufacturers of coke that has been known in Virginia or any section of the United States, for that matter. He has operated plants in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Virginia and made the business a success wherever he has operated. He built the first coke ovens that were placed in the Wise county coal-fields and is, therefore, the founder of the present extensive coking business in that county. He first located at Stonoga and after being there a few years moved to Dorchester, where he created the magnificent coking plant that brought great wealth to him and his associates. We haven't a shadow of doubt but that he will meet with greater success at his present location than even at Dorchester, as he says that the quality of coke he is now making is the best he has ever made; and the demand for his output is much greater than the present possible supply.

The development and upbuilding of this splendid enterprise will be watched with much interest, as it means much for our county and section.

Democratic Victory.

The election held in the Fourteenth district of Massachusetts on Tuesday to fill the seat of the late William C. Lovering, resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Democratic candidate, Eugene N. Foss. He received 14,980 votes as against 9,340 cast for Wm. R. Buchanan, his Republican opponent. Only about four-fifths of the average vote of the past three congressional elections were cast. Evidently the stay-at-homes helped to do it.

POUNDING MILL NEWS.

Items of Interest to Our Readers Here and Elsewhere.

Pounding Mill, Va., March 22. Floyd McGuire made a business trip to Tazewell Saturday.

We are glad to note that Mrs. Mary Williams was able to be out Sunday.

Charles Robinett and William Caldwell visited "down the line" Sunday.

Mrs. Marion Phillips and son, Clyde, were shopping at Tazewell Saturday.

We are anxious to have the news from Cedar Bluff and Indian. Who will officiate?

Miss Altizer, of Big Creek, visited her brothers, James and Dock Altizer, last week.

Mrs. Tom England, of Kentucky, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Thomas.

R. M. Sparks and son, Will Rees, visited their father, Jonas Sparks, at Gap Store, Sunday.

Rev. Gose, of the M. E. Church South, filled his usual appointment here Sunday at 11 a. m.

Mrs. Joseph Smith's school closed on Big Creek last week. She will resume house-keeping again.

Rev. Harvey McCraw preached at the Church of God Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night.

Mrs. T. A. Repass, of Indian, was a welcome visitor to her cousin, Mrs. W. B. Steele, Friday night.

Misses Maudie Petta and Bertha Harris accompanied the corpse, mentioned in these items, to Raven.

Dr. Robert Graham, of Sinking Waters, who recently lived here, was a visitor to our town yesterday.

Miss Bertha Robinett, who spent last week in Williamson, W. Va., visiting relatives, returned home yesterday.

Miss India, the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McGuire, spent a night recently with Mrs. W. B. Steele.

J. G. Asbury is having flues built and other work done on his residence which when completed will be quite commodious.

Miss Jessie O'Keeffe, of Tazewell, who spent last week with her sister, Mrs. R. K. Gillespie, returned home Saturday.

Robert Pruett, who has been in the Gospel work in Indiana and Kentucky since last June, is visiting homefolks and friends here.

Logan Ringstaff was brought home last week from a sanitarium at Bluefield, where he has been confined for several weeks with a broken leg.

Mr. and Mrs. John Boyd's little son, whose sickness was mentioned last week, was buried on Saturday near the homes of their parents, four miles from Raven.

Misses Laura, Fan and Rose Ward, of Wardell and Indian, spent last night with Miss Burford Poindexter at R. K. Gillespie's. John O'Keeffe also spent the night there.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hurt had as their guests Sunday Misses Barbara Brittain and Venie Richardson, of Tazewell, J. H. Gillespie and Carter, of this place and Wiggins Mills, respectively.

Miss Ella Crabtree was joined on the train Tuesday by her sister, Miss Mattie, from Thompson Valley, and spent the day with their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. James Crabtree, at Richlands.

D. B. Humphrey, agent and operator here, attended the order of O. R. T. in Bluefield Saturday night, and reports having a great time. James Altizer sold tickets Sunday morning for No. 5.

Mrs. J. B. Asbury, who made her usual weekly trip to Bluefield, where she is having her little six-year-old daughter's eyes treated by Dr. Peery, extended her visit to Kimball, W. Va., for a couple of days.

Harvey George Gillespie surprised homefolks last week by coming in "ahead of time" from the sanitarium at Roanoke where he underwent an operation for appendicitis. His disease, doctors say, would have proven fatal in twelve hours. He expects to return to V. P. I. the first of next week.

Mrs. W. B. Steele visited her sick relatives at Cedar Bluff Sunday. Mrs. M. M. Hankins and daughters, Misses Lula, Narcie and Helen, of Richlands, were also there. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Marion McGuire, are reported better, while their cousin, T. W. Henniger, who has been so dangerously ill and who is still unable to sit up, is convalescent, and hopes are now entertained for his recovery. He has had pneumonia and heart trouble.

Mrs. R. M. Sparks, Mrs. Skeen, Miss Cora Bruster, W. B. Steele and others attended the burial of Mrs. Oscar Nunley, in Baptist Valley on last Friday. Her death occurred on Wednesday night. Besides a sick husband she leaves six small children, the youngest 4 months old. Any contribution to them will be thankfully received. The husband has been unable to work for over a year. Mrs. Nunley was a Miss Hankins, her parents died when she was a child.

Boyer & Co. have just received new Garden Seeds for those recently burned. Landreths, seed dealers, burn all garden seeds on hand at the end of the season, for which they receive fresh seeds. "Landreth's Seeds" have been the standard for a hundred years.

NEWS OF FALLS MILLS.

Items of Interest to Our Readers Briefly Told by Our Correspondent.

Falls Mill, Va., March 22, 1910. L. L. Compton and family have moved from this place to Switchback, W. Va.

J. C. Nulty, of Bristol, Tenn., is a guest at the home of H. A. Green this week.

Eli Jones and wife, of Gary, W. Va., are visiting Mrs. W. W. Sadler this week.

Miss Binie Sturtevant, of Bramwell, W. Va., was calling on friends here Tuesday.

Sidney Connado, of Pulaski, has been a guest at Mrs. S. J. Kirtner's for several days.

Mrs. Daugherty and the family of Mr. H. A. Green have been on the sick list this week.

B. W. Jewell and family left Saturday for a stay of several days in Montgomery county.

Mrs. Sparrel Muelleirs has returned from Giles county, where she has been visiting her parents.

Mrs. Maggie Thompson, of Rocky Gap, has been visiting relatives and friends here for a few days.

Misses Evelyn and Hester Boone, of Maybrey, W. Va., were visitors at the home of Rev. J. W. Moses this week.

Dr. J. M. Sheppard made a professional visit to Welch, W. Va., Monday to assist in an operation on one of his patients.

Miss Ollie Hale delightfully entertained a large party of young people at her beautiful home near here on last Saturday evening. After participating in a number of popular games delicious refreshments were served, consisting of ices, cakes and fruits. Those present were: Misses Mollie Tabor, Bertha Harry, Louise and Helen Gillespie, Myrtle Kirtner, Annie Nash, Beattie and Mollie Hale, Hattie Carter, Gladys Ransom and Rosa Summers; Messrs. Arthur and Roby Harry, Edward, Grover and Hoge Tabor, R. M. Rice, Sidney Connado, Clinton Tabor, Silas Hill, James Benbow, Will Tickle and Mr. Hearst.

Take no chances with your garden, buy (Landreth's) Seeds which you know are fresh. At Boyer's.

The News of Swords Creek.

Swords Creek, Va., March 23, 1910. Drayton Taylor is the proud father of a fine baby girl.

J. T. Price is just recovering from a severe attack of fever.

Rev. Terry, of Honaker, was a visitor to our village on Monday.

Miss Rosa Wilson, of this place, spent Tuesday with friends in Honaker.

Mrs. Margaret Cole has been right ill for several days with heart trouble.

Miss Evelyn Helton spent Sunday with homefolks near Millers Chapel.

Revs. Thornton and Goad are holding a protracted meeting here this week.

Constable J. F. Reedy has moved from this place to Groundhog Valley.

Mrs. I. T. Beauchamp and little son, Lonzo, have been right ill for the past several days.

Bo Smith, whose illness we mentioned last week, continues to improve, we are glad to say.

Mrs. Fannie Shoemaker left for her home in Texas on Tuesday, much to the regret of her many friends at this place.

J. W. Wysor, of Gardner, is making some improvements on his property at this place, and will move his family here in the near future.

Sulphur and Blue Stone, for making fruit tree sprays can be bought at Jackson's Drug Store.

CRITICAL.

The latest word as to the condition of Mrs. Geo. W. Gillespie, received this morning from Richmonds, is very discouraging. It is to be hoped, however, that her condition is not as serious as the news received would indicate.

TWO DIE IN HEAD-ON COLLISION.

Firemen Martin and Jessie Crushed to Death Under Ponderous Locomotives.

In a frightful head-on collision between fast freight No. 84 and an extra near Glen Alum, forty miles west of Welch, W. Va., on last Sunday morning at 4 o'clock, Fireman C. J. Jesse, of Carterton, Russell county, and Fireman D. R. Martin, of Narrows, Va., were instantly killed, and Engineers Hatcher and Akers both injured, their wounds, however, being very slight. Three engines and eighteen cars were completely demolished when the ponderous giants crashed together. Both engineers saved themselves from the fate of their firemen by leaping into the darkness when they saw a crash could not be averted.

According to reports the wreck was the result of what is known among railroad men as lap orders, the dispatcher giving the eastbound freight, No. 84, orders to pass the extra at Alnwick, six miles east of Glen Alum, while the westbound crew had orders to meet at Jim, a small station west of Alnwick.

The remains of the two dead firemen were taken to Bluefield on passenger train No. 4, where they were prepared for burial and shipped to their old homes where they were interred.

NOTICE.

The Republican county committee is hereby requested to meet at Tazewell, Va., on Saturday, April 2, 1910, at noon. WM. C. PENDLETON, Sec.

Tries to Keep the Office.

The city of Roanoke is endeavoring to prevent the new District Attorney, Barnes Gillespie, from moving the office from that city to this place. The removal of the office has to be authorized by the Department of Justice, and Roanoke is endeavoring to make it appear that that city is more centrally located than Tazewell. It is not likely, however, that the Department will disregard the wishes of the new District Attorney in the matter and, no doubt, as soon as can be arranged, the office will be moved to this place.

During the absence of Mr. Gillespie, who is now in Richmond at the bedside of his sick mother, Mr. S. H. Hoge, who was assistant under Thomas Lee Moore, is in charge of the office, and will continue his duties as assistant under Mr. Gillespie until his successor, whom it is rumored will be Thomas J. Muncy, of Bland, is appointed.

Great Western Sheep Dip. Costs 50c a gallon, one gallon makes 35 gallons. The best, the cheapest and is guaranteed.

Jackson's Drug Store.

FOR SALE

A car of CORN containing 800 bushels, will be sold to the highest bidder at the Norfolk and Western depot at Tazewell, Va., on

Tuesday, March 29th,

at 2 o'clock p. m. This is a car of first grade corn and will be sold by the Norfolk and Western Railway Company to the highest bidder for account of whom it may concern on account of their inability to effect delivery.

NEWS OF RICHLANDS.

Items Gathered by Our Correspondent About People Down the Clinch.

Richlands, Va., March 22, 1910. R. E. Duff, of Dante, is visiting home folks at Richlands this week.

H. A. Barrett, of Honaker, was in town a few days ago looking up a new business location.

William P. Jackson, of Town Hill, is very low with typhoid fever, and his recovery is considered doubtful.

A. A. Wysor began the erection of his large and commodious sales stable at this place on last Monday morning.

The Empire Coal Land Corporation is putting the timber on the ground for the erection of a new tippie about one mile north of this place.

Mrs. John Draper, of Raven, who recently underwent a painful surgical operation, is being rapidly restored to health we are glad to state.

Ed Moore and Charles Blankenship were mached, but not seriously so, by falling slate in the mines of the Southern Pocahontas Co.'s plant at Town Hill on last Thursday.

We were pained to learn of the death of the wife of Dr. Wade Carter at the Jefferson Hospital in Roanoke on last Saturday. Our townsman, Z. V. Carter, left on No. 12 Sunday to attend the funeral.

Mrs. B. E. Dalton, of this place, died on Sunday night last. She leaves a husband and two children, one an infant but ten days old, and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her demise. Interment was made today at Jones' Chapel at 11 o'clock.

On last Saturday the Tazewell baseball team crossed bats with the Richlands boys. The game was closely contested and very exciting from start to finish, in fact it was so close that it required ten innings in which to decide the contest, Richlands finally squeezing out a 5 to 4 victory over the Tazewell team.

Our line of Men's Furnishings is new, up-to-date, and at the right price. Give us a call. J. B. Boyer & Co.

Bearwallow Items.

Bearwallow, Va., March 21, 1910. D. P. Elwick, of this place, has moved to Whitewood, Va.

R. P. Fletcher is paying the city of Bluefield, W. Va., a visit this week.

Moses Horn, of Contrary, is moving into our community this week. We are glad to welcome Moses to Bearwallow.

"Aunt Lettie" White, ninety-five years of age, died last week at this place. She was the widow of Jacob White, who died several years ago.

Benjamin McGraw and two of the Honaker boys became involved in a fight on last Saturday, which ended in bloody heads for the Honaker boys, the result of coming in contact with the butt-end of McGraw's gun.

W. R. Blankenship, of Steelesburg, was in the village the other day with a fine horse which was offering for sale, all the boys here thought six hundred a little stout for one horse, and he moved on in quest of other buyers.

"Squire Elwick went to Logging Bottom, fourteen miles from Bearwallow, last week and surveyed a road up that creek from Dismal to intersect with the ridge road on Mullins' mountain. This road will give the people of that section the best possible outlet, as they have in the past had to travel by way of the Bearwallow and Grundy road.

On last Saturday night the dwelling house of Z. Ward at this place was broken into by unknown parties and \$50 in cash stolen from Mr. Ward's trunk. Mr. Ward was absent from home when the robbery took place while the other members of the house were at home asleep. On searching for some clue as to the thief the money was found concealed under an old tub near the house.

Weary Willie, of Shack Mills, was a visitor to Bearwallow on Saturday last. We thought it might be that he was rounding up those "four hundred Republicans" whom he last week said were going to vote for Stuart; but we now suppose he has decided to wait until after the November election before counting further. Willie is a bright young fellow and had only forgotten for the moment that old and familiar adage: "Don't count your chickens before they hatch," when he made that erratic statement last week.

Rules Committee Revised.

After a bitter fight, lasting for three days and terminating on last Friday afternoon, the House of Representatives adopted the Norris resolution, making the Committee on Rules to consist of ten members and disqualifying the Speaker of the House from membership on the same. The resolution also provides that the Committee hereafter be elected by the members of the House instead of being appointed by the Speaker, as has heretofore been the custom.

Some of our citizens who have heard the DeKoven Quartette, say we have never had a better entertainment here than we may expect Saturday evening in the High School chapel.

NORTH TAZEVELL.

Happenings of Our Neighboring Village Tensely Told for Busy Readers.

North Tazewell, Va., March 23, 1910. R. W. Thompson is at home this week.

K. D. R. Harman is out of town this week on business.

John D. Peery is at home here this week with his family.

James Dudley, of Graham, was a visitor to our town Saturday.

Postmaster H. F. Peery went to Graham on business Saturday last.

Mrs. L. L. Dickenson, whose illness we reported last week, is some better at this writing.

Jesse Peery, rural carrier on route No. 2 from this place, made a flying trip to Sandy on Monday.

J. H. Bowling is handling Uncle Sam's business on rural route No. 2 in the absence of Carrier Jesse Peery.

Mrs. Jessie Peery, who has been sick for some time, has recovered sufficiently to visit the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rush Moss, in Burkes Garden.

Mrs. M. L. Floyd, of Bluefield, who had been spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. H. F. Peery, at this place, is visiting her sister, Mrs. T. E. George, on Plum Creek this week.

The big sale at the store of the Tazewell Supply Company is still going on, with J. A. Peery and John C. Hopkins showing the goods across the counter, while Wilk Witten, better known as "Pete," stands serenely by with a big broad axe ready to cut prices.

The box supper given at Bearwallow on last Saturday evening was a decided success. About \$20 was taken in. Those who attended from this place were: Mrs. Kate C. Whitley, Miss Ella Lawrence, Miss Nanie McGuire; L. T. and George McGuire and L. C. Neel. All report a good time.

H. D. Campbell, son of Mr. John W. Campbell, who has been spending the winter here with his father, will leave on Friday for Pittsburg, Pa., to resume his duties as superintendent of a furnace at that place. We regret very much to see Mr. Campbell take his departure. He is a fine young man, and has made a host of friends while here, whose best wishes will go with him to the Smoky City.

Miss Belle, daughter of Mr. K. D. R. Harman, had a narrow escape from serious injury on last Monday afternoon at the home of Mr. W. P. Whitley. She and Miss Bertha Gillespie, of Cavitt's Creek, were engaged in a game of croquet, when in attempting to croquet a ball the mallet slipped from the handle with which Miss Gillespie was playing, striking Miss Harman just above the left eye, rendering her unconscious for about four hours. Dr. J. Walter Witten was immediately called and rendered the necessary medical attention. Miss Harman is reported as getting along nicely this morning.

Burkes Garden News.

Burkes Garden, Va., March 22. J. R. Meek and G. W. Meas are away buying cattle.

The farmers are busy plowing for oats and corn.

The hens are cackling—some have laid and some have lied.

Rev. E. L. Ritchie is holding services at Central church each evening this week, beginning at 8 o'clock.

The snow that fell Christmas week is nearly all gone—just a few patches left. So we know that Spring is nigh.

Kenneth Patty and Eugene Thompson came over from Tazewell last Saturday and found lodging at the Methodist parsonage.

Steps were taken last Sunday to bring the Sunday school, both at Central church and the Glade, out of "winter quarters" and set them in "running order."

Rev. W. M. Patty returned home Saturday from Kinser's Chapel where he had been holding revival services, which resulted in 21 accessions to the church, and many church members revived.

All kinds of lamps at cost at Pobst's.

PROMINENT MAN GOES TO REWARD

Mr. W. Newton Mustard, of Bland, Succumbs to The Ravages of Pneumonia After Short Illness at the Home of His Son in Bluefield.

Mr. W. Newton Mustard, aged seventy-six, died on Monday afternoon at the home of his son, Charles H. Mustard, in Bluefield, W. Va., after an illness of only a few days of pneumonia. Mr. Mustard had gone to Bluefield a short time ago to receive treatment for an eye which had met with a painful accident and was preparing to return to his home, the injured eye having yielded nicely to treatment, when he was stricken with the disease that ended in his death.

The deceased was a prosperous farmer and miller and lived two miles from Bland courthouse, where he owned a magnificent farm. He was a member of the Methodist church, and had lived a devout Christian life since early manhood.

Many years ago Mr. Mustard was united in marriage to a Miss Newberry, who was a sister to the Hon. Samuel H. and Harman Newberry, both of whom are well known to the people of Tazewell. To this union there were born eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Those living are: Mrs. Martin Williams, of Pearisburg; Mrs. J. Honaker, of Rocky Gap; C. H. Mustard, of Bluefield; Mrs. C. P. Muncy, John G., E. D., B. N., and R. J. Mustard and two younger daughters, Misses Rose and Daisy.

Mr. Mustard was a brother to the late Hon. W. G. Mustard, of Wiggins Mills, and also to Mr. Samuel P. Mustard, who lives in Abba Valley, this county. He was a man of wide acquaintance, and his death will bring profound sorrow to his large circle of friends.

Death of Mrs. Willingham.

Mrs. Caldwell Willingham died in a sanitarium in Battle Creek, Mich., on last Saturday, the 19th instant. The remains were taken to Richmond where interment was made on Monday. Mrs. Willingham had been in Battle Creek for nearly a year endeavoring to fight off the dreaded tuberculosis, and only a few weeks ago it was the sad duty of The Republican to mention a letter from her to friends in this place announcing that the doctors had abandoned hope of her recovery and her resignation to the will of God.

Mrs. Willingham will be remembered as Miss Bessie Hardy, a much loved teacher in this county about fifteen years ago. After her marriage she and her husband were sent to Japan by the Baptist church as missionaries where they remained until her failing health caused their return to this country.

Besides her husband Mrs. Willingham is survived by her mother, four brothers, Walter, Howell, Frank and Lacy, and one sister, Mrs. E. W. Reed, of Honolulu, Hawaii. The latter will be better remembered here as Fannie Hardy, who formerly taught in the High School at this place. One of her brothers, Howell, lives in Graham, Va.

Mrs. Willingham was of a tender, loving disposition, and one well fitted by her gentleness and fortitude for the work in the missionary field. Her loss will not only be greatly felt by her immediate relatives but her church and the foreign missionary work, to which she devoted the best part of her life, will long mourn her passing to her just reward.

Confederate Soldiers Take Notice.

The Confederate Pension Board for Tazewell county will meet in the circuit court clerk's office at Tazewell on the 20th day of April, 1910.

A. ST. CLAIR,

Chairman.

Toilet sets, sloop jars, &c., at Pobst's at cost.



The Wear and Tear Twins Are in Town

Judging by the story a mother told us, her youngsters are the only ones that are hard on clothes.